

Testimony on Operating Budget Bill 11 (2013), CD2
For Fiscal Year 2014

Presented to the Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, June 5, 2013

By: Malakai Maumalanga
Adult Friends For Youth
Master Practitioner

Chairman and members of the City Council, my name is Malakai Maumalanga and I am the Master Practitioner at Adult Friends for Youth. Before I became a staff member, I was a client who got involved with gangs at the age of eight. This part of my life took me on a journey that lead me to prison facing life without parole. Many adults in my life had given up on me, including my family. But Adult Friends for Youth did not. Through their therapy and support I slowly became a productive member of society. It is this journey that allowed me to see and feel the challenging issues that I have faced. Yet thirteen years later I see the same dilemma, emotions, and issues amongst the clients that we service. Its like looking in the mirror with the only difference is that I'm no longer a part of the problem, but trying to be a part of the solution.

Currently we are servicing 23 groups, across Oahu, with about 422 clients per week. About eighty percent of our client population serviced have a very violent mentality and violent behavior. Yet we are very successful in changing these young men and women around. These funds goes along way in providing direct service to change and redirect these negative behaviors. I do not want to imagine how the community would look like if eighty percent of my clients did not get the right services to address their needs.

All the social services agencies here today provide an essential service to our communities and client population served. I humbly ask that you support Bill 11 CD2 with its Amendments for Adult Friends For Youth so that we can continue to provide services so that our youth become productive members of society.

RECEIVED
JUN 5 5 30 AM '13
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII